For Immediate Release Contact Craig Flentie 406.538.1943, 1/27/05

Havre, MT---- As a means of increasing efficiency, the Bureau of Land Management's Havre Field Station (and the non-monument public land it manages) will become part of the Malta Field Office.

This change will not affect the number of employees in either office, nor will it require any employee to move.

Previously, the Havre Field Station, which employs 12 people, was aligned with the Lewistown Field Office.

"The recommendation to make this administrative change has been recommended in two general management evaluations in the last 4 years. We've discussed this idea with the employees and community leaders and the support for this change is solid," said Marty Ott, BLM's Montana/Dakotas state director.

Ott said that BLM will save money and better serve the public because Havre is 174 miles from Lewistown, but only about half that distance from Malta. Havre and Malta not only share a common geography, but also deal with similar issues and manage comparable resources.

"This change just makes sense; it's a more efficient management arrangement for the agency and for the taxpayer. There should not be any disruption of services to our public land users," Ott said.

The management duties associated with BLM lands in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument will remain with the Lewistown Field Office.